Title of lesson: Using Mentor Text (Love That Dog) as a Springboard into Poetry

Suggested grade/ age: Intermediate (4-8)

Approximate time needed to complete lesson: One to two weeks - in 30-40 minute lessons

Learning objective(s) and significance of lesson:
The purpose of this lesson is to ignite student enthusiasm for writing poetry and to open the possibility for all that poetry can encompass. Students are given opportunities to experiment writing poems using models.

Students will:
- Discuss and define poetic devices
- Create original poems, inspired by mentor texts
- Maintain a poetry portfolio and publish best works
- Identify/learn/apply specific writing craft

Brief summary/ outline of lesson:
This lesson is ideal for the beginning of the year. It is an introduction to poetry and its language, as well as a way to create a community of writers. The class reads Love That Dog by Sharron Creech together, following the journey of the main character's development as a poet. The book includes several mentor text poems that the main character's class is studying. Each poem included in the book is used for a separate lesson and writing prompt. These mentor texts are used as a model for writing a variety of poems and experimenting with different poetic devices (repetition, imagery, metaphor, etc.) Writing poems that are inspired by famous published poets gives students a safe space in which to experience success. Students keep a portfolio of their poems that will continue to grow throughout the year. They also submit their best works for publication in a class anthology.

Related Resources:
- Love That Dog by Sharon Creech
- Instant Poetry Forms
- Word Mosaic
- Anthology of Poetry
- Online publishing for the class anthology

Possible extensions or adaptations for different purposes/ student needs:
- I have used the poets in the book to create a “Wall of Poets.” You could continue to add to this by selecting different poets and model texts throughout the year.
- Mentor texts from other genres could be used for inspiration and as a model for students to work from.
- Continue to use these poems to discuss specific craft: word choice or use of the senses in writing.

For additional information, contact: Kara Scheid - scheid.kara@slpschools.org